Veterans Deserve and Receive Top-Notch Eye Care at Philadelphia’s VAMC

The media sometimes portray veterans’ hospitals in a negative light. Images of antiquated, second-rate facilities and overworked staff come to mind. It was refreshing to discover the opposite is true at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). From the moment veterans step through the entrance, they are greeted by a warm and respectful staff and have access to state-of-the-art medical and surgical care in a facility undergoing continuous revitalization. Ophthalmology is one of the departments leading this effort. Ophthalmology at the Philadelphia VAMC provides tertiary care for the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 4) in the tri-state area and, according to Chief Operating Officer Meg O’Shea Caplan, “provides veterans with the best care money can buy.”

What makes the Ophthalmology Service able to give veterans the best care for any conceivable eye problem is a combination of factors: a caring and competent staff, visionary leadership, and access to the latest treatments, administered by talented ophthalmologists on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania’s Scheie Eye Institute.

Michael E. Sulewski, M.D., is Chief of the Ophthalmology Section at the Philadelphia VAMC. Since his arrival in 1991, Sulewski has actualized his vision for giving veterans the best eye care possible and convinced the VAMC administration to provide support.

According to VAMC Chief of Staff Martin Heyworth, M.D., “Sulewski’s activity in the VA system at a national, as well as at the

Continued on page 2
local level has contributed to the progressive and prestigious reputation of Philadelphia’s VAMC.” Meg O’Shea Caplan said she is proud that, “I was able to provide the resources to make Mike’s vision for eye care a reality at the VAMC.” During her ten-year tenure, she approved creation of a dedicated modern state-of-the-art eye clinic, the hiring of numerous new staff and the acquisition of much high-tech equipment.

The affiliation with Penn provides veterans with access to leading ophthalmologists on the Penn faculty, as well as to the latest treatments and technology. All of the ophthalmic subspecialty areas are represented: cornea, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, strabismus, retina and vitreous, and oculoplastic and orbital surgery. Penn faculty supervise and staff these subspecialty clinics on a daily basis, in addition to performing surgery at the VAMC three days a week. Dr. Heyworth observed that it makes a “significant difference to have academically active faculty participating in the program. If a veteran needs a service or treatment that is not available at the VAMC, it can be obtained through the Penn system.” Another advantage of the affiliation with Penn is the dynamic interchange between attending physicians and residents, fellows, and medical students who rotate through the VAMC as part of their training. Residents from the Department of Ophthalmology at Penn have a regular rotation through the VAMC in 10-week blocks, as do fellows from the Retina, Neuro-Ophthalmology, and Oculoplastic and Orbital Surgery services.

The Optometry division is administratively under Ophthalmology and refers patients with medical problems to Penn ophthalmologists. There are 19 part-time ophthalmologists, 1 full-time and 5 part-time optometrists, 3 ophthalmic technicians (including an ophthalmic photographer and visual fields technician), a Licensed Practical Nurse, and an optician. In July, a clinic manager, Song Yi, M.P.H., was assigned to the eye department. Yi started at the VAMC as a Presidential Management Fellow following graduate school at Emory University School of Public Health. He has made a major impact on the complex day-to-day operations of this busy service. On a yearly basis, the clinic has nearly 9,000 ophthalmology visits and over 8,000 optometry and low vision visits. This past year 5,413 pairs of eyeglasses were dispensed, over 6,000 pairs of eye glasses were adjusted, and 349 major eye surgeries were performed. On a typical day, three ophthalmology residents, shadowed by one or more medical students, are in the trenches taking care of the veterans in the eye clinic or operating room. The ophthalmology

The affiliation with Penn provides veterans with access to leading ophthalmologists on the Penn faculty

Ophthalmology clinic staff technician John Green, COA, ophthalmic photographer Lisa Cotterell, COT, and technician Eduardo Fuentecilla, COMT.

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On March 16, 2005, Scheie Eye Institute, the Department of Ophthalmology at Penn, lost a treasured colleague and a beloved friend, David M. Kozart, M.D., to leukemia. Dr. Kozart was a distinguished member of the Department of Ophthalmology faculty since 1970. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1960 from Franklin and Marshall College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1964, he received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Following an internship at Philadelphia General Hospital, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Ophthalmology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Penn faculty in 1970 as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979. In 1990 he served as Acting Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and in 1995 was appointed Vice Chair for Administration.

During Dr. Kozart’s long and illustrious career as a member of the medical faculty, he held many important positions in the School of Medicine, at HUP, and at the Presbyterian Medical Center. Among these were serving as Vice Chair of the Medical Legal Committee at HUP, Chair of the Internal Residency Review Committee at HUP, President of the Medical Staff at the Presbyterian Medical Center, and Chair of the Medical Faculty Senate. He also served on the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility of the School of Medicine and on the Search Committee for the Chair of the Department of Anesthesia.

Dr. Kozart developed an enormous practice in comprehensive ophthalmology and was revered by his patients, admired by his residents, and held in great esteem by his colleagues. The faculty and residents at the Scheie Eye Institute looked forward to his enthusiastic participation each week in Ophthalmology Grand Rounds and were always astonished by the breadth and depth of his knowledge. He never let a questionable statement go unchallenged, and his penetrating questions were always intended to bring out the best in the resident presenting the case. Dr. Jay Moolchandani, a former Scheie Resident, fondly remembers Dr. Kozart’s intervention on a difficult case in the operating room where a patient’s iris kept poching out of the wound.

“The Kozart Maneuver’, a technique of pressing on the posterior lip and letting out some aqueous, rather than trying to push in the iris. In the last 16 years, several of my patients have benefited from the ‘Kozart Maneuver’.”

Dr. Kozart married his wife, Elizabeth, in 1962. They eventually established a home in West Mount Airy, where they reared three children, Michael, Deborah and Marjorie. A fervent handy-man, he excelled in furniture making, turning out pieces of his own design for his children, and eventually for his four grandchildren, Freddy and Sophia Ludtke and Anna and Thea Volpp. He also enjoyed gardening, classical music, opera and books. In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, he is survived by his sister, Anne Karmatz, his sons-in-law, Fred Ludtke and Kevin Volpp and his daughter-in-law, Mary Barsony.

Dr. Kozart will be sorely missed by all those with whom he came into contact over the years. The family has requested that any contributions be made to the David M. Kozart Memorial Fund at the Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania. For further information please contact Ann Sacks, Director of Development at (215) 662-8774.

The faculty and residents at the Scheie Eye Institute looked forward to his enthusiastic participation each week in Ophthalmology Grand Rounds and were always astonished by the breadth and depth of his knowledge.
A Selection of Recent

TOMÁS ALEMAN, M.D.
- Five year Foundation Fighting Blindness Career Development Award to study function and structure in hereditary retinal degenerations

JEAN BENNETT, M.D., Ph.D.
- Alcon Research Institute Award (shared with Albert Maguire, M.D.)
- Paul Kayser International Retina Research Foundation Award for progress in developing treatment for an hereditary retinal degeneration. This singular prize, shared with collaborators Albert Maguire, M.D. and Samuel Jacobson, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded at the International Congress of Eye Research meeting in Sydney, Australia
- Research to Prevent Blindness Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award
- Macula Vision Foundation grant for research on macular degeneration
- "For the Love of Sight" award from Foundation Fighting Blindness; February 2005

ARTÚR CIDECIYAN, Ph.D.
- NIH grant on the visual cycle in human photoreceptor and RPE disease

JOSHUA L. DUNAIEF, M.D., Ph.D.
- RO1 funded by the National Eye Institute to study iron overload as a cause of oxidative stress in macular degeneration
- International Retina Research Foundation Award
- Photomicrograph selected for the cover of Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science (IOVS) and for the cover of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) program announcement
- Steinbach Macular Degeneration Research Award
- Publication in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" of a mutant mouse with features of age-related macular degeneration resulting from iron overload
- Selected as a speaker for the 2005 International Bioiron Meeting in Prague
- Appointed to faculty for the neuroscience and cell and molecular biology graduate groups at Penn

STUART L. FINE, M.D.
- Jackson Memorial Lecture on "Age Related Macular Degeneration, 1969-2004: A 35-Year Personal Perspective" (Keynote address at annual meeting of American Academy of Ophthalmology)
- Rbight Vision Award from Lighthouse International in New York for lifetime contributions to prevention of blindness
- RPB unrestricted grant to support research in the Department of Ophthalmology
- Delivered the Edmund B. Spathel Oration at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, in March 2005

FRANZ FOGT, M.D.
- Presbyterian Bach Fund Grant
- Promoted to Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists
- Appointed Chair of the Division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Director of the R. Philip Custer Laboratory at Presbyterian Medical Center

STEVEN L. GALETTA, M.D.
- American Neurological Association Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award
- Robert J. Glaser-Alpha Omega Alpha Distinguished Teacher of the Year award presented by the American Association of Medical Colleges
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Lifetime Achievement Award
- Medical School government teaching award

SAMUEL G. JACOBSON, M.D., Ph.D.
- Paul Kayser International Retina Research Foundation Award
- "For the Love of Sight" award from Foundation Blindness; February 2005

ALBERT M. MAGUIRE, M.D.
- Paul Kayser International Retina Research Foundation Award
- "For the Love of Sight" award from Foundation Fighting Blindness; February 2005

MAUREEN G. MAGUIRE, Ph.D.
- 2004 Achievement Award, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Morton F. Goldberg, M.D. presents the Foundation Fighting Blindness “For the Love of Sight” award to Jean Bennett, M.D., Ph.D.
Faculty Awards

EYDIE G. MILLER ELLIS, M.D.
- SEI surgical teaching award
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Leadership Development Program

ROBERT L. PEIFFER, D.V.M., Ph.D.
- World Small Animal Veterinary Association Award
- President-elect of the International Society of Ocular Toxicology

ERIC A. PIERCE, M.D., Ph.D.
- Research to Prevent Blindness Physician-Scientist Award for research in myopic degeneration
- NIH grant to study genetics of high myopia
- Appointed to the University of Pennsylvania COAP Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluation
- 2000-2004 Chairwoman, American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Research Committee
- Consultant, Ophthalmic Devices Panel, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health
- Women In Ophthalmology, Inc. Board of Directors 2003-2006
- Invited Visiting Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Lecture: “Ophthalmic Genetics: An Update.” Kowloon, Hong Kong.

JANE PORTNOY, M.D.
- 2004 Main Line Times Readers Choice as Best Eye Care Physician on the Main Line

EDWARD N. PUGH JR., Ph.D.
- Jules and Doris Stein Research to Prevent Blindness Professorship grant to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases

MICHAEL E. SULEWSKI, M.D.
- Surgical Teaching Award presented by the Scheie Residents at the 2004 Graduation Ceremony

NICHOLAS J. VOLPE, M.D.
- Bradley R. Straatsma Award for Excellence in Resident Education (awarded jointly by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology)

TERRI L. YOUNG, M.D.
- Research to Prevent Blindness Physician-Scientist Award for research in myopic degeneration
- NIH grant to study genetics of high myopia
- Appointed to the University of Pennsylvania COAP Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluation
- 2000-2004 Chairwoman, American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) Research Committee
- Consultant, Ophthalmic Devices Panel, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health
- Women In Ophthalmology, Inc. Board of Directors 2003-2006
- Invited Visiting Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Lecture: “Ophthalmic Genetics: An Update.” Kowloon, Hong Kong.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

At the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology held in Fort Lauderdale, FL in May 2005, the following announcements were made:

Joshua L. Dunaief, M.D., Ph.D. was selected to deliver the Cogan Lecture at the ARVO meeting in 2006. This honor recognizes the contributions of the late David Cogan, M.D. and is awarded to an outstanding physician-scientist age 40 or under. Dr. Dunaief’s research focuses on understanding the causes of age-related macular degeneration.

Edward N. Pugh, Jr., Ph.D. was selected along with Australian colleague Trevor Lamb to receive the Proctor Medal and deliver the Proctor Lecture in May 2006. This award acknowledges lifetime contributions to vision research. Pugh and Lamb are internationally renowned for their work on phototransduction.

Eric A. Pierce, M.D., Ph.D. was appointed as the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for The Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. (FFB). Pierce succeeds Alan M. Laties, M.D. who served in this capacity for the past 33 years.

The urgent mission of FFB is to drive the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher Syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

FFB funds leading-edge research in promising areas such as cell and molecular mechanisms of disease, genetics, gene therapy, retinal cell transplantation, and pharmaceutical and nutritional therapies.
A clinical trial is the final stage of evaluating new treatments, including drugs, for safety and efficacy on human subjects. The success or failure of a pivotal clinical trial will determine whether a new drug is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At Scheie Eye Institute, approximately 15 clinical trials currently are in progress. Each clinical trial has a sponsor, typically a pharmaceutical company or the National Eye Institute, a Principal Investigator (PI) from the Scheie faculty and a clinical research coordinator.

Clinical Research Coordinators work alongside the PI’s in the conduct of a clinical trial. In keeping with their level of training, coordinators assist the investigators to identify and recruit patients eligible to participate in the trial, administer informed consents, schedule and administer diagnostic testing, collect and organize clinical information, and help with publications.

Joan DuPont, CCRC, a member of the Scheie Eye Institute for 24 years, manages the Clinical Research Coordinators program. As a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator, DuPont is responsible for getting a trial up and running, completing a site questionnaire, submitting the protocol to the University of Pennsylvania’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and legal department, assigning and training the coordinators who assist with the conduct of the trial, and assuring adherence to FDA guidelines. In addition, DuPont conducts research in the Vivian Simkins Lasko Retinal Vascular Research Laboratory assisting Dr. Juan Grunwald with choroidal blood flow studies. She also assists the Scheie faculty, fellows, residents, and medical students in the design and development of other clinical research projects. DuPont says, “I love my job and the mental challenge of conducting research, learning new things and helping people at the same time.” Her favorite activities outside of work are spending time with her children and running.

Tatyana Metelitsina, M.D., works with Dr. Grunwald on a large trial investigating changes in choroidal blood flow in patients with age-related macular degeneration. Metelitsina identifies and enrolls patients in the study, performs measurements of choroidal blood flow and retinal vessel diameters, analyzes data, assists in the preparation of manuscripts for publications, and presents research findings at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Outside of work, she loves the arts and has extensive training in classical ballet.

Clinical Research Coordinators at Scheie work alongside the principal investigators in the conduct of a clinical trial.
Monique McRay started at Scheie as an administrative assistant and moved to the Clinical Research Coordinator in August 2002. In collaboration with doctors on the Retina Service, she works on four trials which are evaluating new treatments for age-related macular degeneration. Her duties include scheduling appointments and tests, performing an initial patient evaluation, collecting patient histories and submitting study information to the Reading Center. She also assists in photodynamic laser surgery. Outside of work, she takes classes at Penn towards a BA degree and is also a talented cook.

Sheri Drossner, MSW, works with Dr. Alexander J. Brucker on several clinical trials evaluating treatments for diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. These include the Protein Kinase C Inhibitor study, the Sandostatin study, the Macugen studies, triamcinolone for various causes of macular edema, and the Visudyne in Occult Neovascularization trial for age-related macular degeneration. Drossner oversees the studies, obtains IRB approval, reports to the Penn IRB, communicates with the sponsor in reporting adverse events, reviews patient records, and attends to the details of recruiting and screening patients, performing refractions, and assisting patients throughout the examination. She is also the manager for photodynamic therapy. Drossner says, “I enjoy the connection with my patients, and the support and back up of my fellow coordinators. It’s a great feeling.” Outside the office, Drossner enjoys bike riding, movies, music and eating out.

Stacy Boxley, COA, worked as an ophthalmic technician for 9 years in a private practice in Pittsburgh before coming to Penn in July 2002. She says she is “excited to be a trail blazer in a research department, especially at Penn.” She coordinates two studies under Dr. Brucker: a phase 4 trial on visual changes after use of a drug for erectile dysfunction, and a retinal detachment study to evaluate the efficacy of an injection of Denufosol in place of surgery. Her duties include performing diagnostic tests and refractions, documenting all correspondence with the sponsor, processing laboratory specimens, and corresponding with the Penn IRB. She will be transferring to Penn this fall from Neumann College with a 4.0 in Healthcare Administration.

David Scheraga has a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Syracuse University and is trained in electrophysiology testing from his previous job at LKC Technologies, which makes the instrument he is currently using. Under the direction of Dr. Brucker, he performs electrophysiologic testing on the retina to determine the effects of certain drugs on retinal function including color vision. He started at Scheie in December 2004 and plans to earn a Master’s degree from Penn. He enjoys running, watching sports and traveling all over the world.

The success or failure of a clinical trial for safety and efficacy on human subjects will determine whether a new drug is approved by the FDA. At Scheie Eye Institute, approximately 15 clinical trials currently are in progress.
NI RECEPTION
Ophthalmology Meeting
Saint Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

Gisele Soubrane, Nicole Gross and Stuart Fine

Jason Hsu (SEI ’05), Vatinee Bunya, Linda Rose (SEI ’05) and Mike Tracy (SEI ’04)

Kim Nguyen, Vince Young (SEI ’87), Kathy McNelis and Bill Giles

Culver Boldt, Charlie Nichols (SEI ’69, Faculty) and David Boldt

Steve Orlin (SEI ’86, Faculty) and Dan Sheehan

Sep Roustaei (SEI ’98), Steve Thornquist (SEI ’96) and Mina Masa’rop (SEI ’98, Faculty)
Goodbye to Graduating Residents and Fellows

Residents

JASON HSU, M.D.
will perform a retina fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital.

WILLIAM KATOWITZ, M.D.
is going to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

SHANE KIM, M.D.
will stay at Scheie Eye Institute and perform a fellowship in Cornea & External Diseases.

LINDA ROSE, M.D., Ph.D.
is going to Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University for a fellowship in Cornea & External Diseases.

WAI WONG, M.D., Ph.D.
will perform a medical retina fellowship at the NIH/National Eye Institute.

Fellows

DAMON CHANDLER, M.D.
will join a group practice in Florida and specialize in oculoplastic surgery.

HINA AHMED, M.D.
will join a practice in Florida as a glaucoma specialist.

GEORGE MAYO, M.D.
is joining a retina practice in California.

LEILA KHAZAENI, M.D.
is joining the faculty at Loma Linda University in California specializing in Pediatric Ophthalmology.

GABRIELLE BONHOMME, M.D.
is joining a group practice and will specialize in neuro-ophthalmology.
In early March, the department held the inaugural Penn Ophthalmology Review Course at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing. Residents, fellows and practicing ophthalmologists from the United States, Egypt, Taiwan and Trinidad were offered an outstanding comprehensive review of ophthalmology; by all accounts the course was a huge success. Course evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and a key factor in the success of the course was the quality of the faculty, which included Penn ophthalmologists as well as visiting faculty from Drexel, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, Harvard and Washington University. Course participants received a binder filled with copies of the faculty presentations and an MP3 audio CD of the lectures. Written comments by course participants included: “Good coverage of the material”; “Overall, a terrific experience”; “This was a great review”; “Outstanding job for board review especially for being the first time! Congrats!!” We look forward to building on this success and are planning the 2nd Annual Penn Ophthalmology Review Course which will be held February 14-18, 2006 at the Union League of Philadelphia.

For more information or to be placed on our mailing list, please contact Jenny Bartelle at 215-662-8069 or jenny.bartelle@uphs.upenn.edu.

Nicholas J. Volpe,
Course Director

David H. Abramson,
M.D., F.A.C.S.

David G. Hunter,
M.D., Ph.D.

Michael X. Repka,
M.D.

Russell N.
Van Gelder,
M.D., Ph.D.

First Penn Ophthalmology Review Course Sets a High Standard

SCHEIE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

Stefanie Davidson, M.D., a graduate of the pediatric fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), joined the CHOP faculty in July. Davidson earned her medical degree from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and completed an internship at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson. She completed her residency at Tufts University/New England Eye Center. In addition to providing patient care, Davidson conducts clinical research on retinopathy of prematurity with Terri Young, M.D. Davidson enjoys traveling, cooking and trying different restaurants with her husband, Joseph Kist, a dermatologist in Media and Chadds Ford.

Kenneth S. Shindler, M.D., Ph.D., joined the Scheie/Penn faculty in July as a physician-scientist working on optic neuritis, a major cause of vision loss in patients with multiple sclerosis. His research is supported by a 5-year mentored clinician-scientist award from the National Eye Institute of the NIH. Shindler completed his fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Penn, after obtaining M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and completing a residency in ophthalmology at Scheie. As the newest member of our five member neuro-ophthalmology service, Shindler sees patients at Scheie Eye Institute. Ken and wife, Christine, are avid sports fans, participating in multiple sports year round.

Myron Yanoff, M.D., Chairman of Ophthalmology at Penn (1976-1985) and currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Drexel University has returned to Scheie on a part-time basis as Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology. Yanoff conducts a clinical pathology teaching seminar once a month for residents, fellows, students and faculty. Yanoff is internationally renowned for his textbooks, Ocular Pathology, now in its 5th edition, and Ophthalmology, now in its 2nd edition. The author of more than 160 scientific articles, Yanoff is widely respected as a scholar, teacher, clinical innovator, and academic leader.

Gui-shuang Ying, Ph.D., joined our Center for Preventive Ophthalmology and Biostatistics as Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology in July 2004. He received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from University of Pennsylvania in 2004. Ying works on projects in age-related macular degeneration, myopia, and preschool vision screening. His statistical research involves the analysis of data from diagnostic tests and treatment outcomes. In his spare time, he enjoys watching NBA games and spending time with his young son, Bowen.
residents and medical students are closely supervised by the ophthalmology attending physicians.

The veterans appreciate having their eye care provided by the residents, not only because of the excellent care they receive, but also because the veterans enjoy participating in the education of future ophthalmologists. However, they are keenly aware that highly skilled and experienced attending physicians from Penn are always there to ensure that only the highest level of care is delivered, whether it is in the clinic or the operating room.

Veteran Michael Rothsching was so enthusiastic about the outcome of his cataract surgery performed by Resident Cathy Hwang, M.D., that he is looking forward to having cataract surgery in his other eye so that his vision can be restored completely. The residents examine a large number of patients, perform a majority of the surgeries, and see a tremendous diversity of pathology, making the total VAMC experience one of the crown jewels of their residency.

The veterans appreciate having their eye care provided by the residents, not only because of the excellent care they receive, but also because the veterans enjoy participating in the education of future ophthalmologists.

The VAMC is ahead of many private and academic practices in that it uses an electronic medical record and thus is virtually paperless. The most recent addition is digital photography, which also is integrated into the electronic record. All prescriptions are handled electronically. The equipment in the clinics and the operating rooms is state-of-the-art. To insure enough capacity to meet the demand for ophthalmology appointments in a timely manner, the eye clinic is currently under construction to significantly expand its space. This expansion should be completed by the fall of 2005, nearly doubling the size of the current ophthalmology clinic and expanding the number of exam rooms from 9 to 17. Veterans coming to the Philadelphia VAMC can be assured that they will receive the best eye care available anywhere.

Meg Macfarlane and Ann Sacks
SAVE THE DATE
PENN OPHTHALMOLOGY REVIEW COURSE
February 14-18, 2006
The Union League of Philadelphia
140 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Course Director: Nicholas J. Volpe, M.D.

ANATOMY/EMBRYOLOGY
Joshua L. Dunaief, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert L. Peiffer, DVM, Ph.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

ONCOLOGY
David H. Abramson, M.D., FACS
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Cornell/Weill Medical College

RETINA
Alexander J. Brucker, M.D.
Stuart L. Fine, M.D.
Albert M. Maguire, M.D.
Robert A. Stoltz, M.D., Ph.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

OCULOPLASTICS/ORBIT
Robert E. Gausas, M.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

OPTICS/REFRACTION
David G. Hunter, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard/Children’s Hospital Boston

RETINAL DEGENERATION
Samuel G. Jacobson, M.D., Ph.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

CATARACT & REFRACTIVE SURGERY
Mina Massaro-Giordano, M.D.
Michael E. Sulewski, M.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

GLAUCOMA
Eydie G. Miller-Ellis, M.D.
Prithvi S. Sankar, M.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

CORNEA/EXTERNAL DISEASE
Stephen E. Orlin, M.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY/ STRABISMUS
Michael X. Repka, M.D.
Wilmter Institute at Johns Hopkins

ULTRASOUND
E. Kym Livingston, ROUB
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

UVEITIS
Russell N. Van Gelder, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY
Nicholas J. Volpe, M.D.
Scheie Eye Institute at Penn

PATHOLOGY
Myron Yanoff, M.D.
Drexel University

Check our Website www.penneye.com– click on “Education” then “CME Courses”

For further information, or to be placed on our mailing list,
contact Jenny Bartelle 215-662-8069 or jenny.bartelle@uphs.upenn.edu

Comments, suggestions?
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To remove name from mailing list, call above number.